DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 268 234 CE 043 914

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TITLE	Personal Consumerism. Courseware Evaluation for Vocational and Technical Education.
INSTITUTION	Ohio State Univ., Columbus. National Center for Research in Vocational Education.
SPONS AGENCY	Office of Vocational and Adult Education (ED), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	16 Oct 85
NOTE	10p.; For a related document, see ED 244 058.
PUB TYPE	Reports - Evaluative/Feasibility (142)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Consumer Economics; *Consumer Education; *Courseware; *Daily Living Skills; Disabilities; Disadvantaged; *Home Economics; Home Economics Skills; Instructional Material Evaluation; Secondary Education
IDENTIFIERS	*Courseware Evaluation

ABSTRACT

This courseware evaluation rates the "Personal Consumerism" program developed by Aquarius People Materials. (The eight-program series--not contained in this document--includes understanding labels, consumer help, consumer fraud, consumer law, comparative shopping, consumerism and you, reading an advertisement, and tips on buying a used car.) Part A describes the program in terms of subject area (consumer education), and hardware requirements (Apple II, IBM PC, JR, TRS 80 III); indicates its suitability for use with handicapped and disadvantaged students, grades 7-adult, with a reading level of grades 3-5; lists accompanying materials (teacher's guide); and estimates time for use (one hour). Availability information includes cost ($29.95 each), policies, and contact address. Part B contains the evaluation criteria in eight categories; reviewer ratings appear as yes, somewhat, no, and not applicable, with explanatory comments. Part C summarizes the evaluation. Strengths of this program are ease of reading, good remediation, and positive reinforcement. Weaknesses include inconsistency in presentation, some unclear directions, and no student evaluation. Summary ratings in the eight categories include the following: subject matter, technical presentation, student interaction, and program interaction--yes; student evaluation and documentation--somewhat; work behaviors and application programs--not applicable. The courseware is recommended for use in a life skills curriculum. (SK)

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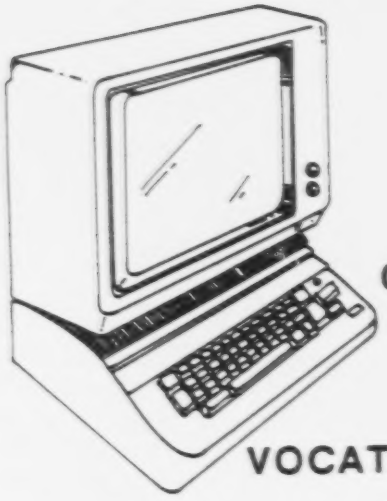
PERSONAL CONSUMERISM



COURSEWARE EVALUATION

FOR

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The evaluation of this courseware program was conducted by a team participating in the Courseware Evaluation Network. The Network, established in 1985, is coordinated by the National Center for Research in Vocational Education under the sponsorship of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education. The purpose of the Network is to identify and evaluate microcomputer courseware, and to disseminate courseware reviews for vocational and technical education.

Each Network team includes three members, at least one of which is, or recently has been, a vocational or technical teacher in the subject matter area of the courseware being evaluated. The evaluation represents a synthesis of the opinions of the team members. It is suggested that the evaluation be used as a first screening device for courseware and that the teacher also evaluate the courseware program on the basis of specific student needs.

The Courseware Evaluation: Form and Guide used for all of the Network evaluations was developed by the National Center and is available through its cost-recovery system.

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COURSEWARE EVALUATION FORM

Team Coordinator: Janet Smizer

NOTE. If you are using this form for the first time, read the instructions in the accompanying Microcomputer Courseware Evaluation Guide.

Evaluator Patricia Kropp, Carol Lifebire, Patricia A. O'Neil

Position Vocational Teacher, Adviser, Special Needs Teacher

Date 10/16/85

Part A: Courseware Description

Part A: Courseware Description

In the following sections, record descriptive information about the courseware that you are evaluating.

I. IDENTIFICATION

Program Title Personal Consumerism Date 1982

Series Title Survival Skills

Vocational Area(s) Home Economics

Subject Area(s) Consumer Education

Topic(s) Tips on Buying a Used Car, Reading an Advertisement, Consumerism and You, Shopping in a Comparative Way, Laws for Consumers, Consumer Fraud, Consumer Help, Understanding Labels,

Developing Agency Aquarius People Materials, Inc.

Street or P.O. Box P.O. Box 128

City Indian Rocks Beach State FL Zip 33535 Phone (813) 595-7890

Author(s)

Programmer(s)

II. HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS

Microcomputer* Apple II, IIe, IIc
(brand/model)

K Memory Required 48K
(number)

Medium of Transfer (include number of each):

- __ Tape cassette
- __ ROM cartridge
- 8 5¼" Flexible disk
- __ 8" Flexible disk
- __ Other _____ (specify)

Programming Language Applesoft Basic DOS Specifications 3.3

Other Specifications

Peripherals Needed (check all that apply):

- __ Color monitor
- X One disk drive
- __ Two disk drives
- __ Plotter
- __ Game paddle(s)
- __ Joystick(s)
- __ Modem
- __ Mouse
- __ Printer
- __ Graphics tablet
- __ Light pen
- __ Voice/sound instrument
- __ Clock
- __ Video disk
- __ Touch screen
- __ Ten-key number pad
- __ Other _____ (specify)

*NOTE: Provide the above information for any additional hardware on which this program can be used. TRS-80, III, IBM PC, JR.

Part A: Courseware Description

III. PROGRAM FEATURES (check all that apply):

__ Network version provided
__ Multiple copies required
__ Program can be modified
X Program protected
__ Data disk needed
__ Field-test data available

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING

Program mode (check all that apply):

__ Application
__ Drill and practice
__ Educational gaming
__ Simulation
X Tutorial
__ Other _____ (specify)

Student Target Population (check all that apply):

X Regular
X Disadvantaged
X Handicapped
__ Limited English
__ Bilingual
__ Gifted

Grade Level (check all that apply):

__ K-6
X 7-8
X 9-10
X 11-12
__ 13-14
X Adult
__ Higher Education

Instructional Grouping (check all that apply):

X Individual
X Small group (up to 4)
__ Large group (4 or more)
__ competitive interaction
X cooperative interaction

Prerequisite Student Skills (specify) Reading level, grades 3-5

Accompanying Materials (specify types):

Documentation Teacher's Guide and Within Program

Student support materials _____

Teacher support materials Teacher's guide

Correlated materials _____

Estimated Time for Use 1 hour/ program

V. AVAILABILITY

__ Free _____ (copies)

__ Loan _____ (time)

__ Duplication (requestor supplies disk)

X Sale $29.95 each/set $235.00

__ Rent $_____ _____ (time)

Copyright Restrictions (explain) may not be reproduced; use permitted only at facility of purchase.

Back-up Policy (explain) _____

Preview Policy (explain) to be previewed at only one facility

Update Policy (explain) _____

Contact Aquarius People Materials, Inc.

Street or P.O. Box P.O. Box 128

City Indian Rocks Beach State FL Zip 33535 Phone (813) 595-7890

Part B: Courseware Evaluation Criteria

Indicate the applicability of each section to the courseware being evaluated by checking either "___ A" (applicable) or "___ N/A" (not applicable). If a section is not applicable, proceed to the next section. If a section is applicable, check the column that indicates how well the courseware meets each criterion. Include any comments.

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
I. SUBJECT MATTER X A ___ N/A					
1. Subject matter has educational value.	X				
2. Student objectives are stated.		X			
3. Subject matter is accurate.	X				
4. Subject matter is logically presented.	X				
5. Subject matter is free of race, ethnic, sex, and other stereotypes.	X				
6. Subject matter is on the level of the students.	X				
7. Information and skills presented are comparable to those used in the home, business, or industry.	X				
8. Subject matter motivates students to learn.		X			
9. Subject matter is reviewed and summarized.	X				
10. Program utilizes the unique capabilities of the microcomputer to present the subject matter.	X				
II. TECHNICAL PRESENTATION X A ___ N/A					
1. Program is free of technical problems.	X				
2. Presentation rate is adequate to maintain interest.		X			
3. Information on the screen is easy to read.	X				
4. Program is free of spelling and grammatical errors.	X				One spelling error present.
5. Program instructions are easy to follow.	X				
6. Color increases the instructional value of the program.				X	
7. Audio increases the instructional value of the program.			X		
8. Graphics increase the instructional value of the program.				X	

Part B: Courseware Evaluation Criteria

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
III. STUDENT INTERACTION X A ___ N/A					
1. Students can use the program with minimal assistance.	X				
2. Students are actively involved in the program.	X				
3. Students control the pace of the program.	X				
4. Students can access the program "menu(s)" to change activities.		X			Menu shown but can't access freely.
5. Students are permitted to change answers.	X				
6. Methods of responding correspond to the level of the program.	X				
7. Students' errors of entry are processed so that the program continues to run.	X				
8. Students can access available "help" and "hint" options at any time.			X		
9. Students can enter or exit the program as desired.			X		
10. Students control the sequence of the program.		X			By use of menu.
IV. PROGRAM INTERACTION X A ___ N/A					
1. Feedback is immediate.	X				
2. Cues and prompts are provided to assist students in answering correctly.	X				
3. Feedback reinforces the correct responses.	X				
4. Feedback is nonthreatening.	X				
5. Program helps students understand wrong answers.	X				
6. Program gives the correct answer after a reasonable number of tries.	X				
7. Positive reinforcement is varied.		X			
8. Program has the ability to branch/loop depending upon students' performance.		X			Incorrect response-branch to lower grade level paragraph.
9. Feedback is on the level of the student.	X				
V. STUDENT EVALUATION ___ A ___ N/A					
1. Evaluation provides a means for measuring attainment of objectives.	X				
2. Program reports which items were missed and which were correct.			X		

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
V. STUDENT EVALUATION—*Continued*					
3. Individual student performance results are available to the teacher.	X				% and # correct out of total.
4. Class performance results are available to the teacher.			X		
5. Program provides for printed copies of evaluations.			X		
6. Test item formats are suited to the material being tested.			X		Multiple choice only
7. Test items are clearly stated.	X				
8. Test item bank is provided.			X		
VI. DOCUMENTATION X A ___ N/A					
1. Documentation is easy to understand.	X				
2. Documentation is accurate.	X				
3. Student objectives are stated.		X			
4. Underlying concepts are outlined.		X			
5. Skills to be developed are specified.			X		
6. Procedures for integrating the program into the curriculum are provided.		X			
7. Follow-up activities are suggested.	X				
8. Documentation explains the intended use of support materials.			X		
9. Sufficient information is provided to operate the program.	X				
VII. WORK BEHAVIORS ___ A X N/A					
1. Program helps students identify their vocational skills.					
2. Program promotes pride in work.					
3. Program promotes productivity.					
4. Program encourages good work habits.					
5. Problem solving is encouraged.					
6. Program promotes good human relations skills.					
7. Program provides an opportunity for work satisfaction and self-fulfillment.					
8. Program encourages creativity.					

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A	COMMENTS
VIII. APPLICATION PROGRAMS ___ A _X_ N/A (to be completed for application programs only)					
1. Program is adaptable to the needs of the student.					
2. Commands are easily remembered.					
3. Information is easily manipulated.					
4. Corrections are easy to make.					
5. Program includes all necessary variables.					
6. Program performs reliably.					
7. Program efficiently achieves its intended purpose.					
8. Trial data are supplied for learning to run the program.					
9. Program provides for use of printer when hard copy of information is advantageous.					
10. Program moves from operation to operation efficiently.					
11. Program is compatible with other application programs.					
12. Program has a supplementary tutorial program available.					

Part C: Courseware Evaluation Summary

1. SUMMARY COMMENTS

Identify strengths of the courseware:

Adequate life skills curriculum. Ease of reading, good remediation, and positive reinforcement. Well developed glossary, topics are independent and gives the score at the end of each section.

Identify weaknesses of the courseware:

Inconsistency in presentation format. Directions are at times unclear. No student evaluation available for teacher.

Describe uses of the courseware in an instructional setting:

Lifeskills curriculum. Can be utilized as a tutorial, to develop communication skills, introduction to consumer education, and as reinforcement of classroom presentations.

2. SUMMARY OF SECTION

Rate the quality of the courseware for each applicable section of this form by checking the appropriate column: if not applicable, check N/A.

	YES	SOME-WHAT	NO	N/A
I. SUBJECT MATTER: Content has educational value.	X			
II. TECHNICAL PRESENTATION: Program is free of malfunctions.	X			
III. STUDENT INTERACTION: Students are actively involved with the program.	X			
IV. PROGRAM INTERACTION: Feedback is effectively employed.	X			
V. STUDENT EVALUATION: Evaluation adequately measures student progress.		X		
VI. DOCUMENTATION: Documentation is sufficient to run the program.		X		
VII. WORK BEHAVIORS: Program assists students in developing positive work attitudes and skills.				X
VIII. APPLICATION PROGRAMS: Program performs the task for which it is intended.				X

3. FINAL RECOMMENDATION

Check your recommendation for the courseware and explain your reasons below.

___ Highly recommend
___ Recommend with reservations
X Recommend
___ Do not recommend

Limited use for the learning disabled due to the reading level. The programs tend to be repetitive.

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Microcomputer Courseware Evaluation Guide: Form and Guide
for Vocational and Technical Education

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